by the Ministry of Finance to the Government of Sikkim during the last three years is as under :

Years	Amount (Rs. crore)
1993-94	10.99
1994-95	15.98
1995-96	17.59

(b) and (c). As these comprise block loans granted under Central Assistance and share of loans against small savings collections, they are not earmarked for specific purposes.

Goods Seized by Customs Authority

2130. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some persons and cooperative societies in Delhi have been permitted to sell confiscated goods seized by officials of Customs Department;

(b) if so, the names and addresses of such persons and Societies with formalities prescribed for seeking such permission;

(c) whether margins of profit has been fixed for sale of confiscated goods to customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Consumer goods seized by Delhi Customs are being sold on becoming ripe for disposal to NCCF. The address of NCCF is as follows:

National Consumer Cooperative Federation of India Limited, Deepali Building, 6th Floor, 92, Nehru Place, New Delhi.

M/s. NCCF are given a discount of 14.5% on the price fixed for the goods.

Foreign Debt Liability

2131. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in "the Hindustan Times" dated November 21, 1996 under the caption "Finance Ministry blamed for export slowdown" in the context of foreign debt liability of U.S. Dollars 100 billion on the Indian Government which have to be paid in foreign exchange;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate any policy to develop close coordination between the concerned ministries to boost the exports on war footing; and

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) the news item referred to does not reflect the factual position since the Finance Ministry has not been blamed as mentioned therein.

The total external debt outstanding of the country has declined from US$ 99.04 billion as on March 31, 1995 to US$ 92.66 billion for the period ending March, 31,1996. Moreover the debt service ratio has also declined from the peak of 35.25% during 1990-91 to a more manageable level of 25.54% during 1995-96.

(b) and (c). Export promotion is a continuous process. This includes inter alia, close inter-action with the concerned Ministries/Departments so as to provide the congenial environment for sustained increase in exports.

Trade Fairs Organised by ITPO

2132. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the national and international trade fairs sponsored, organised and hosted by the India Trade Promotion Organisation during 1995-96;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the establishment and maintenance of the Pragati Maidan during 1995-96;

(c) the total income likely to be generated by ITPO by way of organising the trade fairs during the current year.

(d) whether the ITPO has leased out the space permanently for non-promotional purposes to various parties at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details of the area with its units rent, party-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) During 1995-96 ITPO held 17 exhibitions in India which are Consumexh, Sajavat, Delhi Book Fairs, Intl. Shoe Fair, Shoe Comp, Prakash India, India International Trade and Gramawas '95 Fair, International Security Exhn., Tex-India, National Children Fair, SAARC Fair, Print Pack India, AHARA'96, National Consumex Fair, India International Leather Fair, Tex-styles India, and International Leather Goods Fair.

23 Fairs were held by third parties. They are : 1st Delhi Tourism and Travel Show, CYMO India '95, Indian Garment Fair '95, BREW BEV India '95, Korea Trade Show'95, Broadcast, Cable and Satellite, India Intl. Power Generation and Energy Exhibition and Congress, Oil and Gas Petrochem Show and Congress, 1st India Built Intl. Building Construction Material Show'95, Communication India'95, IT ASIA'95, PAPEREX'95,